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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EA-10
ICA-11 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NEA-06 NSC-05 NSAE-00
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, UNGA, UR, AF, PK, IR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON AUGUST 24 AFGHAN STATEMENT
REF: MOSCOW 11989

1. PRAYDA TODAY CARRIES A TASS INTERVIEW WITH AFGHAN PRIME MINISTER KESHMAND IN WHICH HE CALLS ON PAKISTAN AND IRAN TO REPLY TO THE DRA'S "FLEXIBLE" PROPOSAL FOR PEACE TALKS. KESHMAND CLAIMS THAT AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE AFGHAN STATEMENT, NO ONE -- "ESPECIALLY PAKISTAN" -- HAS A PRETEXT
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ANY LONGER FOR REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS.

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ALTHOUGH THE SOLE SOVIET COMMENTARY ON THE PROPOSAL TO DATE (REFTEL) POINTED TO TWO "NEW ELEMENTS" CONTAINED IN IT -- THE DRA'S NON-OPPOSITION TO TRIPARTITE TALKS AND TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE UN SYG OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE -- KESHTMAND ONLY CITES THE LATTER AS A "NEW ELEMENT."

2. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MATLOCK

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